

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2007
7:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Discussion Regarding Change in Policy for Special Police Detail Officers Over Age 65

Police Chief McLaughlin and Donald Fournier appeared before the Board. Mr. Fournier is a retired police lieutenant speaking on behalf of two other retired officers. They feel the Board's decision on this matter was made with inaccurate information. He pointed out that if the Town has to go outside the Town for officers to work details, Belmont loses money. If the Town is the contractor, the Town ends up paying a higher rate. The retired officers know the streets of Belmont better than outside officers. He noted that the officers recently attended a state training seminar at their own expense. He asked the Chief and the Board to reconsider the decision.

Chief McLaughlin said he is trying to be consistent with the retirement age of police of 65. The new policy is consistent with this retirement age. He said this will be a factor that is looked at when the state considers the accreditation of the town's Police Department. Mr. Fournier countered that the Police Department won't meet accreditation anyway because the police building does not have a secure lockup.

The Board agreed it would like to allow the Chief to make this decision and not second guess him. It was clarified that the Chief had been contacted by numerous retired officers seeking the same status as these three officers, which led to the review of the policy.

Parking Issue - Marlboro Street

A resident has requested the Town review the parking restriction on Marlboro Street. Currently parking is prohibited on one side of the street near the intersection with Belmont Street. Police Sgt. MacIsaac has sought out feedback from residents about changing the restriction to two-hour parking. He has learned that the current restriction was created because a company previously located on the street had complained about having room to back out of their parking lot. Feedback from residents has been mixed. Sgt. MacIsaac did not find any complaints in the police log from Marlboro Street about patrons of Conley's across the street. He is recommending a No Parking 8:30 AM - 10 AM restriction, unless the residents would prefer two-hour parking.

The Board decided to hold a hearing on a 2-hour parking restriction. The Parking Group will notify abutters and conduct the hearing.

Committee Appointments

Zoning Board of Appeals: Bill Lovallo is considering whether to continue as an associate member or step down given his new duties on the Permanent Building Committee. The Board will review this matter on August 6.

Housing Trust appointments will be held off until August 6.

Disability Access Commission: Patricia Livingston has asked to be re-appointed as an alternate member. The Board asked Laurie Graham to see if Nan Donald would like to be an alternate member as well.

The Board moved: To appoint Nan Donald as an alternate member of the Disability Access Commission pending her agreement to serve.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To re-appoint Patricia Livingston as an alternate member of the Disability Access Commission.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board is still looking for candidates for the Human Rights Commission.

Community Preservation Act: Chairman Firenze updated the Board about the proposed committee to study the CPA. He spoke with a supporter of forming the committee and encouraged her to put together a preliminary report for the Board to convince the Board that the financials do not make this a moot point. The supporter agreed and the Board agreed with this approach.

McLean Land Management Committee: It was confirmed this committee does meet. There are no appointments that need to be made at this time.

Traffic Advisory Committee: Tim Riley has resigned. Elizabeth Firenze has declined her appointment.

The Board moved: To rescind the appointment of Elizabeth Firenze to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (2-0). (Firenze abstained.)

The Board moved: To appoint Laurence McDonald and Phil Richmond as full members of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Historic District Commission: Five members seeking reappointment. Chairman Firenze said he had a discussion with Richard Cheek that was frank and he now feels he can support his reappointment. He also noted that the committee must have a realtor and Nancy Richards is one.

The Board moved: To reappoint Lydia Phippen Ogilby, Nancy Richards, Arleyn Levee, Richard Cheek, and Lisa Harrington to the Historic District Commission.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Planning Board: Andy McClurg's retirement leaves one vacancy. The Board narrowed the list of volunteers to 4 candidates. The Board members will contact candidates personally before making a decision on August 6th.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Younger reviewed with the Board an FY09 budget calendar developed by the Town's financial team with the goal of having the budget ready for the April Town Meeting. The Board approved the schedule and commended Mr. Younger for his work.

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

" Full depth reconstruction of Pleasant Street will begin from Concord Avenue to Clifton Street next Monday.

" The RFP for Woodfall Road will go out by the end of August. Closing on the Lamoine Street sale is scheduled for a week from Friday. The Harvard Lawn RFP will go out by July 30.

" The alcohol license hearings are scheduled for July 16.

" The Town will look at some possible striping on Trapelo Road.

" The Town Hall Building Committee is meeting to release funds for the repair of the Town Hall doors.

" The Town will learn on July 9 if it will receive a grant for the elevator at the senior apartments.

" Department head reviews will be completed by the end of July and Mr. Younger will provide the Board with summaries of the reviews by August 6.

There was a discussion of the process and timeline for finalizing changes to the health insurance plan design. This will need to be on a future agenda.

A new bench at Clay Pit Pond has been donated to the Town in memory of a late Town resident.

The Board moved: To accept the gift of a public bench at Clay Pit Pond.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

V. ACTION BY WRITING

Rock Meadow Field Management Plan

The Board moved: To sign the contract.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Auctioneer License - North America Auctions

The Board moved: To approve a one-day auction license.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Common Victualler's License - Asai Restaurant

The Board moved: To approve the license.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

VI. OTHER

Selectman Solomon reported that the Trapelo Road project has not reached 25% completion and therefore will not be included on the state's current TIP. Rep. Brownsberger has filed a bill to

have the state purchase the Uplands and the bill had a hearing before the appropriate legislative committee.

There has been no progress in clarifying the status of the VFW building. Town Counsel is investigating whether the Town may in fact already own the building since the lease was not renewed.

The Board discussed a letter received regarding the Historic District Commission and a response will be drafted.

The Board moved: To enter executive to discuss litigation and not to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 8:58 PM.

(During executive session, one substantive motion was made and passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 9:11 PM.)

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator